

AMERICA'S REFUSAL TO
ACT ON RUSSIA PROBLEM
DISAPPOINTS THE ALLIES

Surprise Accentuated By Interpretation Put on Ambassador Child's Statement When Invitation To The Hague Conference Was Presented to United States

DECLINATION
MAY DISRUPT
HAGUE PLANS

Belief Spreads at Genoa That United States Proposes to Permit Each Nation to Solve Its Own Problems of Finance By Limiting Their Budgets

Washington, D. C., May 16.—The American note of yesterday declining to participate in the proposed meeting at The Hague next month for discussion of Russian conditions was intended to leave the door open for further conversations, it was said to-day at the White House.

Beyond this confirmation of the interpretation placed on the state department's communication to-day by Premier Lloyd George, no comment on the situation at Genoa or the American attitude toward participation in discussions on economic conditions in Russia was made.

"This government is unable to conclude that it can helpfully participate in the meeting at The Hague," Secretary Hughes cabled the American ambassador, "as this would appear to be a continuance under a different nomenclature of the Genoa conference and destined to encounter the same difficulties if the attitude in the Russian memorandum of May 11, remains unchanged."

"The United States," Mr. Hughes continued, "maintained its original view that the ultimate question to be considered in connection with European economies would be found in restoration of productivity in Russia, the essential conditions of which must be provided within Russia herself."

Genoa, May 16 (By the Associated Press).—Foreign Minister Schanzer of Italy, on learning from the Associated Press at an early hour this morning that the decision of the American government not to join the proposed commission on Russian affairs at The Hague, expressed great surprise, especially at the rapidity with which a decision was taken which may have great influence on the further discussions at Genoa.

Great disappointment at the American decision was expressed generally in conference circles.

The surprise was accentuated by reason of a statement the Italian press attributed to Ambassador Child, quoting him as saying to Foreign Minister Schanzer that the United States probably would accept an invitation to The Hague on condition that the powers bound themselves not to conclude separate agreements with Russia while the Hague commission was sitting and that the decisions of the commission be referred to the respective governments for final action.

When the news of the American declination got abroad it became at once the topic of the day. The opinion generally expressed was that American absence from The Hague might kill that meeting, as the refusal of the United States to participate at Genoa was in the eyes of many of the delegates the chief reason for the failure of the conference here to achieve definite results.

These among the delegates here who were participants in the Washington armaments conference have frequently reiterated their conclusion that America believes the salvation of Europe can only come by each country earnestly setting to work to restore her finances by balancing her state budget and that this can only be done by reducing expenses, especially by limiting armaments.

"The real difference between Genoa and The Hague," as the latter was projected, said a leading delegate to-day, "was the participation of the United States at The Hague. Now that America has refused the invitation I cannot see why, in a month's time, it should be possible to solve at The Hague through a commission of experts the problems which the states plenipotentiaries and the experts together failed to solve here. I do not like to prophesy but it would not surprise me at all if America's refusal should prove the death blow to The Hague meeting."

When announcement of the declination of the Washington government was conveyed to the French delegation here disappointment was expressed. It was commented that France was at one time with America in forecasting the dangers from the attitude of the Soviet representatives, as disclosed in their present memorandum if the communists persisted in their present doctrines.

"Here at Genoa, however," said one

of the French delegates, "the bolsheviks have been plainly playing to the gallery, proclaiming their theories to the world in order to satisfy the radical bolshevik wing in Russia."

"At The Hague they would probably be less theatrical and get down to business, realizing they must do so if they expect any financial assistance."

FRANCE MAY DECLINE
THE HAGUE INVITATION

Because of Ambiguity of Memorandum Setting Forth the Agenda of the Conference.

Paris, May 16.—The declination of the American government to participate in the conference of experts at The Hague on the Russian question is attributed by French officials here to the ambiguity of the memorandum setting forth the agenda of the conference, which in French opinion may be interpreted so as to permit the discussion of political questions.

Unless conditions are laid down so as to avoid this danger there is little likelihood, it was declared, that France will be represented at The Hague.

LOSS \$1,500,000.

United Lead Co. Plant at Perth Amboy, N. J., Damaged.

Perth Amboy, N. J., May 16.—The white lead department of the United Lead company's plant here was destroyed by fire early to-day, with an estimated damage of \$1,500,000. The blaze, which for a time threatened to spread to the factory of the United States Cartridge company, 150 feet distant, was brought under control after a six hour fight.

STOVE

At the Sunday morning service of the Community church Rev. C. E. Hayward preached the first of a series of sermons on "The Trinity," an appropriate topic, considering the fact that the Trinity is the basis of the united in spirit of the Community church. The decorations were especially beautiful and consisted of cut flowers and sprays of shad blossoms.

A meeting is called for Wednesday evening at the Community church parlor to make plans for an every memorial service for the coming year. The directors and all interested in the welfare of the church are urged to attend.

At the regular meeting of Mansfield Mountain grange Saturday evening, Mrs. J. R. Parker of Morrisville, Maine, her official visit as grange deputy. Mrs. Parker was accompanied by Mr. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Warren and son, Adelbert Warren, also of Morrisville. A program in charge of the lecturer, Mrs. Harriet Recor, included instrumental selections by Mrs. Frances Austin, and Irene Aquino; prayer by Rev. C. E. Hayward; roll call, quotations from the ritual; recitation, Mrs. Mildred Russ; remarks by Mr. Parker and an address by Principal C. J. Strand, who spoke on the relation of the school and home. Refreshments were served. The third and fourth degrees will be worked at the next meeting and each one is asked to have a contribution relating to Memorial day.

News was received here Thursday of the death of Mrs. Rose Belle (Sallies) Graham of Winchester, N. H., formerly of Stowe. Mrs. Graham died at a hospital at Brattleboro, after a short illness with pneumonia. She was 65 years of age and was the daughter of the late Lucius L. and Samantha Munn Sallies. She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Fred Allen of Walden and Mrs. Chester Richardson of Claremont, N. H., and three sons, Edgar E. Graham of Dryden, Wash., Richard A. Graham of Ashuelot, N. H., and C. Albert Graham of Winchester, N. H., with whom she made her home. She also leaves several grandchildren, two sisters, Mrs. E. J. Adams of Stowe and Mrs. E. K. Seaver of Cady's Falls, and two brothers, J. M. and Milo E. Sallies of New Haven, Conn. Her death followed that of sister, Mrs. George M. Towne of Stowe, by about two weeks. Her oldest son, Mr. George A. Laird of Cabot, died in February, 1921. The funeral and burial took place Saturday in Winchester.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Riley went Sunday to Franklin to attend the funeral on Monday of Mr. Riley's uncle, Herbert M. Riley.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Straw were in Waterbury Sunday, calling on their sister, Miss Minnie Straw.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Shaw, Mr. and Mr. H. Raymond and Mrs. A. R. Straw were visitors in Montpelier.

Mr. Tuckette and Miss Eleanor Nye of Montpelier called on Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Macy Sunday.

The pupils of Stowe high school, as stated by the grades, will give a musical entertainment on the evening of May 26 in charge of Miss Ruth McMahon, musical director. The program will include several solos and selections by the Girls' Glee club and a musical production, "Flower Land," in costume.

Among the week end visitors in Stowe were Miss Kathryn Recor of the University of Vermont, Miss Elizabeth Faller of Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. C. Grandey, Miss Jessie Grandey and Miss Pearl Grandey of Burlington and James Brownlee of Montpelier. Mr. Brownlee was accompanied home Sunday by his father-in-law, Rev. C. E. Hayward. Mrs. Hayward is passing some time in Montpelier with Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee.

Miss Glendora Nutting, who has been out of duty of a hospital at Bridgeport, Conn., since her illness with the flu in winter, is at home for a month to recruit her health.

GOV. SMALL LOST
CONTENTION

Judge Admits Drafts, Totalling \$14,575,000, on Illinois Treasury

AND PAYABLE TO
GRANT PARK BANK

Prosecution Is Trying To Forge Chain of Conspiracy to Embezzle

Waukegan, Ill., May 16. (By the Associated Press).—Drafts on the treasury of Illinois, payable to the Grant Park bank, a private banking institution, in Grant Park, a town of 600 population, were read into the record to-day in the trial of Governor Low Small, charged with conspiracy with Vernon C. Curtis president of the bank and Lieutenant Governor Fred E. Sterling to embezzle state funds.

The state introduced more than twenty of the drafts, totalling \$14,575,000, as a link in the alleged chain by which they charge the three defendants with the late Senator Edward C. Curtis, now \$20,000,000 of state funds, through the Grant Park for their private gain.

The drafts were presented after Judge Claire C. Edwards overruled objections by the defense.

OUSTED PRINCIPAL
TO BE REINSTATED

Because the "Kids Want Cox," According to Statement of a School Director in Westport, Mass., Rumpus.

New Bedford, Mass., May 16.—By a vote of two to one, the Westport school committee voted to reinstate H. Eugene Cox, ousted principal of the high school, whose dismissal occasioned the walking out of the great majority of the students yesterday.

"The kids want Cox and we are for the kids," asserted Loren Parks, member of the committee.

"They mustn't stay out of school at this time of the year."

There were only 11 students at class to-day under the new principal, Arthur Harris. These promptly deserted him when Mr. Cox drove by in his automobile with Mr. Cox beside him as living argument to induce the "strikers" to return.

The "strikers" themselves were gathered under an elm in the center, the girls wearing red sashes with the ousted principal's name on it, the boys arm bands. They almost all cheered lustily. A meeting is being held this afternoon to determine whether they will go back to school until to-morrow when Mr. Cox returns.

WHY WE KNOCK ON WOOD.

Custom Grew Out of Old Belief That Trees Had Healing Qualities.

Why do widows wear caps? Because when the Romans were in England they used to shave their heads as a sign of mourning, and as a woman could not let herself be seen with a bald head, she made herself a pretty cap. Though the necessity for it has long since passed away, the cap still remains.

Why do many persons, half in jest and half in earnest, knock on wood for a preventive of misfortune? Because there was at one time a general belief that trees and humanity were allied in close bonds of unity, and that certain trees had healing qualities. It was customary for a person afflicted with disease to take a woolen string of three colors and with his right hand tie it loosely to the limb of a tree then slip it out and hasten homeward without casting a glance back, the belief being that the disease was transferred to the tree by touching it. This custom is still in use in some common practice to touch any article made of wood to ward off misfortune.

Why do we wear heels on our shoes? Because the sandal-like footwear of olden times was not adapted to horseback riding, and when the high boots were introduced heels were put on for the purpose of giving the foot a good hold on the stirrup.—Dearborn Independent.

Of Course Not.

A rural minister was bothered by the postman not only reading his postcards, but communicating their information to others. One day he wrote a postcard to a medical friend who lived at the other end of the village. It read, "I would tell you more, only I know the postman will read it. So I put the card in the letter box, whence it was collected, and taken to the postoffice and sent out for delivery. The postman stamped into the doctors office with the card threw it on the table, and exclaimed angrily, 'he's a liar! I don't read 'em.'—Los Angeles Times.

Maintaining Neutrality.

Madge—What did you say to him when he found you under the mistletoe with his river?—My dear, I said: "Marjorie! I just told him he was next.—Life.

TO STOP PRICE
RISE AT MINES

Steps Are Being Taken By Government to Forestall Tendencies

SAYS STATEMENT
AT WHITE HOUSE

Secretary of Commerce Hoover Has Matter Under Charge

Washington, D. C., May 16.—Steps are being taken by the government to forestall tendencies toward rising prices of bituminous coal at the mines, it was said to-day at the White House. Secretary of Commerce Hoover has the matter of investigation and action in his charge, it was said.

ALARM WAS FALSE.

Though Washington Fire Companies Rushed to Treasury Building.

Washington, D. C., May 16.—A false alarm about midday to-day called three companies of fire apparatus to the United States treasury, but investigation showed no trace of a fire. Great excitement prevailed as the fire apparatus rushed to the huge building that shelters the nation's storehouse of gold and silver and millions upon millions of securities and on the roof of which fire has broken out within recent months.

Explanation was made that an employee in the architect's office directly under the roof, which is being raised to accommodate another story, pushed a button by mistake. A fire signal registered in the office of the captain of the watch down on the ground floor and an alarm was rung in.

STEEL MERGER PROCEEDS.

Government Intervention Has Had No Appreciable Effect.

New York, May 16.—Government intervention into the proposed steel mergers has caused no apparent change in the plans of the interest involved which continued their plans of consolidation.

Directors of the Bethlehem steel corporation and the Lackawanna steel company were called into separate sessions to consider the purchase of Lackawanna by Bethlehem, which will be arranged by a stock transaction, details of which were to be completed probably late to-day. Except for a brief statement by President Eugene G. Grace of Bethlehem at the time the merger was announced that it involved no violation of either the Sherman or Clayton acts, interested persons have made no comment on the action of the federal trade commission in requesting information concerning the same before the deal was consummated.

Mostly Against Engineering.

After They Are to Graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Boston, May 16.—A questionnaire answered by Massachusetts Institute of Technology seniors shows that 60 per cent of the class would not take up engineering as a profession after graduation.

The average salary expected after graduation was \$1,300. One student said, "After graduation, enough for me; after five years enough for two; after ten years enough for six."

About 75 of the 650 men answering the questionnaire boldly stated that they never kissed a girl.

Wellesley was voted the most popular girls' college.

"HOCH NAVY" BRINGS PRIZE.

Seized Vessel Carries 2,000 Cases of Whiskey.

New York, May 16.—The first prize of their "hoch navy" operating off the Atlantic coast to prevent smuggling of intoxicating liquors, was brought into New York harbor to-day by the United States customs service boat Hahn. It was a sloop of 125 tons displacement, loaded, it was declared, with 2,000 cases of whiskey.

The prize was captured by the Hahn last night off the New Jersey coast about 25 miles south of Monmouth. Six members of the crew were arrested.

HARRY WILLIAMS DEAD.

Composed "In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree."

Oakland, Cal., May 16.—Harry H. Williams, composer and motion picture director, is dead here after a brief illness. He was credited with composing "In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree," "I'm Afraid To Go Home In The Dark" and other popular songs.

Post-War Finance.

Secretary Mellon said at a banquet in Washington:

"England and America are paying their way, but I could name one or two other countries whose financial policy is but very little better than old Aunt Caroline's."

"Pore old Aunt Caroline!" said a young girl. "She was taken on a cruise when I seen her last evening. Cold as it was, she hadn't a nickel in her house to buy coal."

"Pore old auntie!" said a second girl. "Has she got coal now?"

"Yep."

"How she got it?"

"She done pawned de stove."—Washington Post.

Always Open to Offers.

"You have spurned me!" he cried bitterly. "I will go into the hay world, and I will win my name, and I will be known and my riches revived."

"Then," she interrupted, "try me again."—Stray Intercepts.

FLASH OF LIGHTNING
SET TANKS AFIRE

Great Loss Caused at Bayonne, N. J. When Many Tanks Were Destroyed.

Bayonne, N. J., May 16.—Ten tanks of petroleum were destroyed to-day by the fire which was started last night in the Tidewater Oil company's yards here by a flash of lightning. The loss is estimated at \$750,000.

Eight gasoline tanks, two naphtha tanks, besides the agitator vessel and 17 of the "continuous treating" tanks were consumed, as well as thousands of feet of pipe lines torn up by firemen in an effort to prevent the spread of the flames.

GOING TO EUROPE.

Major H. Nelson Jackson to Invite Prince of Wales to Visit U. S.

Burlington, May 16.—Major H. Nelson Jackson, national vice-commander of the American Legion, leaves this morning for Europe, and will sail for New York on the New Majestic, Saturday for London, where he will attend the national meeting of the British Legion on June 4, 5 and 6 as the official representative of the American Legion, later, he will pay official visits to the veterans' organizations in France, Belgium and Italy. He expects to be away about four weeks.

This trip to Europe which Major Jackson is taking at this time is at the personal request of Hanford MacNider, national commander of the American Legion, who has selected the major as the man best fitted to undertake the important journey. It will be a part of Major Jackson's task while in London to secure, if possible, the consent of the Prince of Wales to attend the meeting of the International Veterans' Federation in New Orleans in October, just previous to the national convention of the American Legion in that city. It is possible that Marshal Pétain of France and King Albert of Belgium may also be among the guests at this meeting of the International Veterans' Federation.

MONTPELIER

James Lester of Winslow pleaded guilty to intoxication in Montpelier city court this morning and was sentenced to thirty days in Washington county jail by Judge F. L. Laird. The funeral of the late Miss Mary Emma Stimpson was held from her late home, 7 First avenue, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Rev. C. N. St. John officiated. The burial was in Green Mountain cemetery. The bearers were Julius H. Volholm, Frank Griggs, Will Smith and C. A. Andrews.

Timothy Callahan has decided to grant a property near the former location of Montpelier and Wells River railroad bridge to Daniel Fogg, Simon S. Garand and Alex Fogg, co-partners in the Columbian-Artistic Granite Co. The property was formerly owned by the Columbian Granite Co. The consideration was \$20,000.

In probate court E. C. Duffley of Barre has been appointed administrator of the estate of the late Miss Mary Gowan Griffin, late of Barre. Albert A. Sargent has been appointed executor of the last will and testament of the late Ellen L. Stoughton of Barre. Henry C. Stoughton of Rochester has been appointed administrator de bonis non, with the will annexed, of the late Homer L. Stoughton of Barre.

Crowning at St. Augustine's.

The annual exercises of the crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin were held Sunday evening at 7:30 in St. Augustine's church. Over two hundred and fifty young ladies of the junior and senior sodalities, dressed in white and wearing veils, assembled in St. Augustine's hall and marched from there into the church carrying banners and singing hymns to our Blessed Mother. The following sodalities and their leaders: The Blessed Virgin's altar: Emma Heney, Beatrice Pine, Mary Kane, Anna McMahon, Hattie Jerome, Lena Brown, Emma Mullaney, Agnes McCarthy, Margaret Corvan, Emma Ford, Mary Doherty, Margaret Roach, Julia Murtagh, Alice Lynch, Ethel Donnelly, Margaret Ledy, Margaret Murtagh, Margaret Loden, Anna Collins, Katharine Boyle, Lorena Poulton, Dorothy Choate, Lucy Lanier, Loretta Lynch, Evelyn McCormick, Ruby Theriault, Gladys Alden, Rose Henny, Margaret Marron, Anna Doyle, Mary Portall, Evangeline Galais, Florence Corry, Helen Henny, Florence Poulton, Florence Currier, Madeline Frenier, Katharine Donnelly, Katharine Pine, Agnes Lynch, Katharine Pine, Florence Trachten, Margaret Callahan, Lucy Frontini, Helen Lynch, Margaret Jones, Mary Conlin, Margaret Mack, Julia Lynch, Nellie Keiser, Florence Smith.

Marshals: Margaret Lynch and Mary Ford.

First banner bearer: Delia Lemay; tassel bearers, Mary Doyle, Evelyn Wright, Helen Doyle, Abbie Putney.

Second banner bearer: Loretta Marianne; tassel bearers, Margaret Stone, Rose Fitzgerald, Irene Burns, Corinne Campbell.

Third banner bearer: Margaret Leahy; tassel bearers, Margaret Scrimm, Mary Murphy, Katharine Short, Mary McKenna.

Crown bearer: Evelyn Tupper; assistants, Bernice Poulton, Irene Dodge, President: Mary Kerin; mads of honor, Henrietta Kerin, Juana McCarthy; Mary Queen, Anna Guano, M. Organist, Margaret Fitzgerald.

Garland bearers: Katharine McKenna, Irene Callahan, Dorothy McKenna, Katharine Shambo, Florence Wood, Mary Wood, Mary Box, Alice Roach, Honor Shields, Florence Halligan, Katharine Maloney.

In the sanctuary: Rev. Father Croasly and Rev. Father Deroy.

The above twenty young ladies were received into the sodality, after which a very elegant women on devotion to Father Croasly gave a very elegant sermon on devotion to the Blessed Virgin, which was followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

INJUNCTION
HALTS ELECTION

Of Directors of the Boston & Maine Railroad in Boston

ANTI-NEW HAVEN
MEN WIN POINT

Crocker Asked for "Genesis" of One of New Haven Candidates

Boston, May 16.—The adjourned annual meeting of Boston and Maine stockholders came to an abrupt halt to-day when it was announced that an injunction petition had been filed in the supreme court, the effect of which would be to restrain the counting of ballots for the election of directors. Five of the directors, according to a federal court decree given in New York would have been representatives of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad.

The petitioner was Edmund J. Codman, who said that, as an individual, he had asked the court to enjoin the New Haven shares from voting. He added that his bill in equity was brought on the ground that under a Massachusetts statute a railroad corporation was prohibited from getting control of another not lawfully owned, owned or operated by it prior to May 1, 1907.

Judge DeCoursey issued an order of notice returnable on May 23.

Augustus Loring of New York, appearing for the trustees of the Boston Railroad Holding company, which represents the New Haven interests in the Boston and Maine, placed in nomination as representatives for the New Haven the names of Frederick C. Cummings of Concord, Charles F. Choate of Southboro, R. G. Hutchings of New York, Frank P. Carpenter of Manchester, N. H., and Henry R. Day of West Newton. The management of the Boston and Maine presented the present board for re-election.

Conrad W. Crocker, representing the Boston and Maine stockholders' Protective association, asserted that "the genesis of Mr. Hutchings ought to be traced" inasmuch as he was connected with the Pennsylvania railroad financial interests which are largest holders of New Haven stock. The stockholders, Mr. Crocker said, should be as much opposed to a Pennsylvania man as to a New York Central man.

Mr. Crocker presented a resolution by which the stockholders would direct their board to accord no representation to "New York or Canadian trunk lines" and declaring for independent management of the Boston and Maine. The resolution was defeated.

The adjournment was for two weeks.

TIRE ROLLED OFF.

Throwing Wayne Holcomb's Auto Into Ditch, He Wasn't Much Hurt.

John R. Scott of Barton has reported to the secretary of state that a party of four Barton people in his car tipped slightly in a ditch when the car tipped over in Derby on May. The passengers injured were Aurelia Rodett, Anna-bell Scott, John Scott, Jr., and John Scott, Jr.

Wayne Holcomb of Bristol reports that he was involved in an accident on the main road from Bristol to New Haven on May 15, but was not hurt very badly. A tire rolled off while he was driving, throwing the car into the ditch.

R. E. Dwyer of Burlington reports that he pulled so strongly on his steering wheel in trying to stop his car when a girl riding a bicycle ran in front of him that he broke one of the crossbars and pulled out of the wheels in the other three. The car struck the bicycle and its rider, Agnes Coakley, was thrown off and scratched. The rear wheel of the bicycle was broken and the frame jammed. The accident occurred on St. Paul street in Burlington on May 12.

E. R. Davis of Barre reports a collision between his car and a car driven by a man named Parizo at the corner of Elm and Washington streets in Barre last Sunday afternoon. One rear wheel of Mr. Davis' car was broken. Mr. Parizo adjusted the damage according to the report.

The damage was about \$7.

Benjamin Black of Burlington reports that a horse owned by Oscar Guyette was killed in a collision between his automobile and Guyette's team in Burlington on May 13. He states in his report that Guyette changed directions after Black had signalled for an intersecting street.

Ira B. Bromley of South Burlington reports that all four fenders of his car were damaged in an accident on the Shelburne road which occurred when he went to pass a Ford car going the same way.

DIDN'T WANT LAWYER.

East Northfield, Mass., Man Promptly Pleading Guilty in Brattleboro.

Brattleboro, May 16.—For driving his automobile "while intoxicated," Postmaster F. B. Esterbrook of East Northfield, Mass., was fined \$150 and costs yesterday by Judge Frank D. Stowe in municipal court. Mr. Esterbrook declined to avail himself of the opportunity to see a lawyer, although told by the court that the offense with which he was charged by State's Attorney Harold E. Whitney was charged. He pleaded guilty and admitted he had been drinking, but said he did not consider he was intoxicated. He gave his age as 63 years.

Postmaster Esterbrook's coupe ran into a car owned and driven by O. T. Hendricks of Brattleboro on Vermont street Sunday night. Chief of Police George Wilson, with Inspector C. T. Pierce of the secretary of state's office, went to the scene of the collision and arrested Mr. Esterbrook. Both cars were damaged and that of Mr. Esterbrook was towed to a garage here.

WRITERS OF LETTERS TO
EDITOR MUST BE KNOWN

The Times has received several communications, the writers of which failed to sign their names to the articles, and, therefore, we have no knowledge of the identity of the writers. We should like to state again that we do not publish letters without knowing the identity of the writers, though we do not insist that the names of the writers appear in print.

ENTER PROTEST TO

20,000 GAL. "GAS" TANK

Some Property Owners Near Boyce Lot on North Main Street Were Heard By City Council.

Protest against the location of a 20,000 gallon gasoline storage tank on the west side of the Boyce-property lot, adjacent to 340 North Main street, was voiced at a special hearing before the Barre city council last night by the owners of property just north of the proposed site, the owners being Mrs. J. T. Callaghan and Mrs. Almira Ahern, who, together with Mr. Callaghan, based their protest on the ground that the tank would be a fire hazard and that their tenants would object and that it would not be an ornament to the surroundings. The council, after more than an hour's consideration, decided to postpone the action on the application of Oliver's Battery station until direct word from the insurance companies had been secured.

Those who protested said that it was not a fit place for a gasoline tank in the thickly settled part of the city and on Main street and that their information was that the tank would increase insurance rates thereabouts. Would you want a big gasoline tank right in front of your property? Was the question they put to various members of the city council. The reply of some was that they might not think it desirable to have a big gasoline tank, or even a public garage in front of their property, but if there was no fire hazard they could not well object. So is a gasoline tank a fire hazard? The question on which will probably hinge the granting of the building permit.

When called upon for his viewpoint, C. A. Oliver, who intends to put in the large tank, said that the risk from fire was negligible, so far as he had been able to learn; that dealers in "gas" tell him there is a small chance of fire starting in a well-built and well-kept place such as he intends to construct; that if from static electricity a fire starts in a tank it can be easily smothered by throwing wet blankets over the manhole on the top; that he personally had seen large tanks in thickly settled parts of large cities and near railroad lines, too.

A. Boyce stated that an insurance man had told him personally that if a tank is placed on the Boyce lot there would not be an increase of insurance rates in consequence. Both he and Mr. Oliver said that no deal had been closed whereby the latter was to build there although the matter had been talked over.

The Boyce lot, so-called, which, by the way, is still the property of the Boyce estate, has a large vacant lot north of the Boyce house, the lot having about 190 feet depth. Mr. Oliver proposed to set his tank, either above or under ground, on the rear of the lot, tearing down George Mann's old stone shed to make room for a railroad siding from the Montpelier & Wells River main line, said siding to run about 30 feet into the lot in order to facilitate filling; piping to run to a selling station nearer the front of the lot on Main street, the station to be reached by a covered driveway from Main street so that pumping at the curb would be eliminated; the station to be enclosed with a fence of rough sturdy breastwork as to keep out intruders and careless persons. Mr. Oliver said he hoped to have a station which would improve the looks of the lot.

The petitioner did not know whether he should prefer a tank under ground or above ground; it was about 50-50 with him and he awaited the pleasure of the city council in that respect. The council should say under ground, all right, if above ground, the same.

A whole lot of somewhat extraneous discussion entered into the hearing, with the city council listening, both because it was more or less interesting and because the members of the council really wanted to do what seemed to be the fair thing in the matter.

It was with the latter idea in mind that, after hearing the pros and cons, the council decided to postpone action until more information from the insurance companies had been secured. The hearing adjourned at 8:30.

SCARLET FEVER LEADS.

In Communicable Diseases in Fifth District During April.